

Western Canada

A Land of Unequalled Opportunities,
Soil the Best, Climate the most
Favourable, Resources
Unlimited.


1906
(125)

EARLY DAYS

Although but little was known of any portion of Western Canada before the formation of a provincial government in Manitoba in 1870, there is now scarcely a country in Europe or State in the American union that has not its sons and daughters located there in farming, and calling to their friends and relatives to come over and settle with them. Jointly with the advent of the railway in the western part in 1882 came the division of the country into four territories—Assiniboia, Alberta, Athabasca and Saskatchewan—and the establishment of territorial government with the introduction of a partially responsible form of administration.

Like all new countries and new discoveries the country had to live down prejudice. This it has done most effectively, and is now on the highway to complete settlement with the most enterprising class of people to be found anywhere in the world.

Before the introduction of the railway, the only white population in the country were the employees of the fur trading companies, and a few settlers around the scattered trading posts over the wide expanse of country. But note the change. In the prairie country there are now 6,000 miles of railway with 1,000 towns and villages varying in sizes from a country store and post-



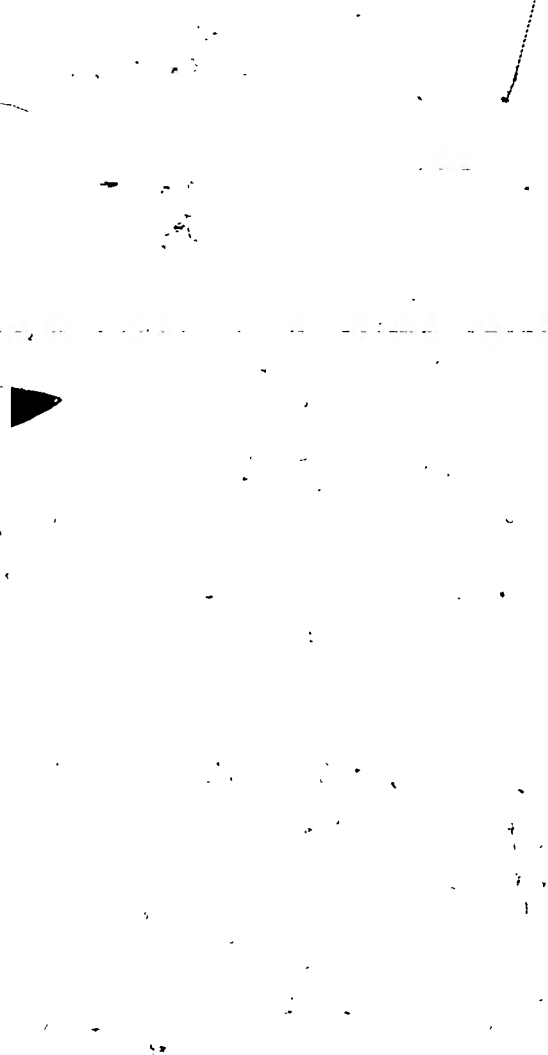
office to the city of Winnipeg with its 100,000 people, an entire population of over 750,000 people, and a net annual export of over \$60,000,000 worth of agricultural products. It does not require the discernment of a wise one to see that this could not have been possible did not the country possess the very best of opportunities in its leading industry—agriculture.

SOIL AND CLIMATE

The soil and climate are everywhere throughout the entire country of over 385,000,000 acres of territory specially adapted to the growth of all cereals and other farm crops, the raising of live stock, and the inseparable dairying, and all other features of mixed farming.

In the eastern portion of the country the winters are cold and bracing, declining in thermometer dips until the Rocky Mountains are reached, where freezing is never keen, the influence of the "Chinook" or Pacific Coast winds modifying in diminishing effect as one travels easterly. This presents the strange coincidence of longitude rather than latitude determining the force of the weather. The evidence of the settlers of the entire country is, however, that the climate in all districts is most conducive to the development of a healthy vigorous population.

With soil and climate all that can be desired, educational advantages the best that can be devised by the leading educationists of the day, transport, postal and all similar facilities



keeping pace with the needs of the people, markets most convenient, the freest and most democratic form of government in force, there is no surprise in the settlers being everywhere prosperous and contented and inviting all old acquaintances to come and settle with them.

The settlers are everywhere advancing in comfort, wealth and prosperity as rapidly as time will permit, which leaves them with but little more to desire. All the social advantages of older countries are not, of course, everywhere at hand, but even these are improving as settlement increase and pioneering days are passing by.

CROPPING

Wheat, as many people the world over already know, is the leading product of the country, merely because the economic conditions of pioneer days make it most profitable, and not because all other crops known to agriculture do not grow equally well there. Wheat being less bulky in proportion to value, and having the largest outside market, is of first importance.

Oats, barley, roots, vegetables etc., are however grown sufficiently to meet local requirements, the needs of incoming settlers, and supply the markets of Ontario and British Columbia, on either side.

The area of land with suitable climatic conditions for grain growing is set down at 200,000,000, after deducting water and broken land. The remainder of the entire area is considered



suitable for the raising of flocks and herds of live stock.

The wheat area is capable of supplying the wants of Great Britain twenty times over. A better idea of the force of this statement may be gathered from the fact that wheat 62½ lbs. to the bushel, and 25 bushels to the acre is grown regularly 900 miles north of the International Boundary in 107 days after sowing, in the great Peace River District where there are already large flour and saw mills, large cattle ranches and other results of successful farming waiting for the railways.

The longer day and consequently the greater amount of summer's sun in the 24 hours fully compensates for what may be considered the other natural disadvantages of that far north country. This shows that even in the highest latitude of that great country all cereals can be annually matured, and where that can be done all other branches of agriculture can be most successfully prosecuted.

Before dealing further with the expansion of the country it may here be remarked that it has now fully outgrown the primitive form of government under territorial rule, and the four territories are converted into two provinces and given a full measure of responsible government as members of the great Confederation. All references to their growth from this time out will be as provinces.



CROP STATISTICS

For the purpose of showing how the country is expanding agriculturally we give below some statistics of 1904 compared with those of six years before from the territory that now constitutes the two new provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta.

	1898	1904
Acres under		
wheat	327,580	869,750
Bushels wheat....	5,750,650	17,250,350
Acres under		
Oats	115,275	560,680
Bushels Oats	3,250,360	18,250,640
Acres under		
Barley	17,640	72,850
Bushels Barley.	465,350	2,350,420

These figures do not include the great grain growing Province of Manitoba to the East.

When this advancement has been made under conditions less favourable than they are now, it will be the more easily understood that it will be vastly greater under increased immigration, the expansion of railways and markets and all favourable conditions associated with general development. The value of the crop of 1904 at the prices that prevailed that year was \$18,825,000.

The estimates of the most careful farmers show that after the first ploughing or "breaking" of the virgin soil which is an exceptional expenditure and has to be done but once, wheat growing costs, everything hired and bought, but \$7.50 per acre, and as the average yield and price year in and year out is

20 bushels at 60 cents, the net profit is \$4.50 per acre. Of course when the farmer does his own work he earns wages besides.

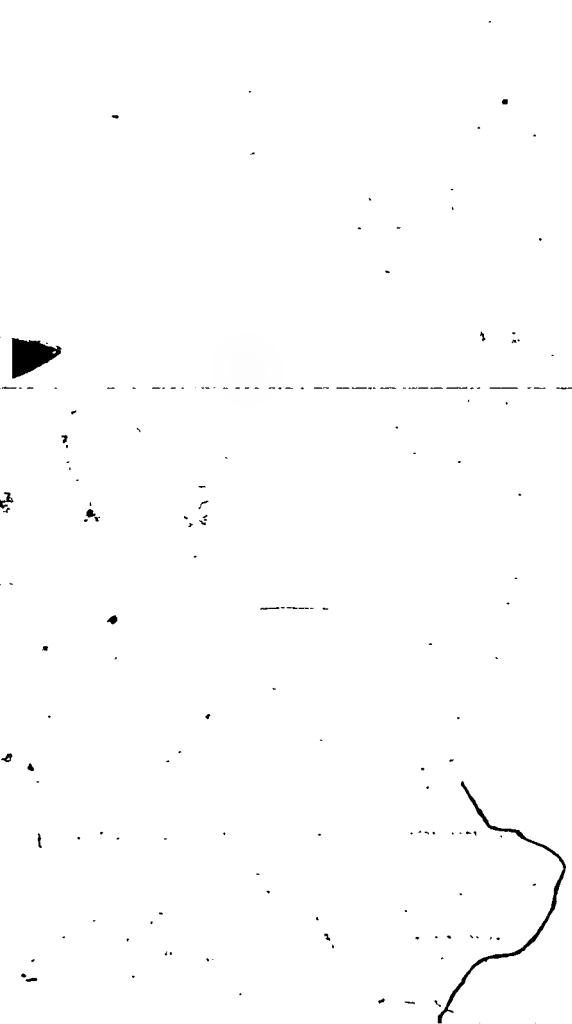
LIVE STOCK

The man of experience knows there is nothing like operating all branches of farming together, as they all grow while he is sleeping.

For natural reasons the eastern portion of the country is better adapted to wheat growing than the west, while for the same the west is the ideal ranching country of the world. Here the native grasses retain their nutritive properties all winter through; and as the warm winds melt the snow almost as soon as it falls, and winter freezing is very moderate, cattle graze out all winter without care or attention and are invariably in first-class condition in the spring.

It is also well known to practical men that herds double every three years, so that every third year the rancher doubles his money with only the expense of a couple of men looking after a very large herd, whether of horses, cattle or sheep. Necessarily the industry is but young, though many immense fortunes have already been made in the business.

Easterly, as the snow lies longer in winter, cattle have to be fed from one to four months, as in other countries according to locality. Even this is inexpensive, as summer feed costs nothing, and winter keep naught but the cutting and saving of the native grass of the country everywhere in abundance.



DAIRYING

In the eastern provinces of Canada the farmers find dairying the most profitable branch of their business, and but for the superior grain yields, the comparatively inexpensive keep of large herds of live stock and the cost of farm help the farmers of the West might have the same experience. They have, however, learned that the co-operative system under government control is the most satisfactory. The farmers simply deliver their milk or cream, most generally the latter, at the dairies, under the care of expert operatives, receive advances once a month, and final settlements for their deliveries at the end of the season. This saves them all the expense of fitting up houses for the care of milk or any of the products, and the cost of operation, knowing the best is made out of the cream deliveries, and with but little trouble to them.

The foregoing statistics give a general outline of the operations, and profits of the Canadian prairie farmer.

Among the other problems to the intending immigrant are fuel, educational facilities, markets, taxation, etc.

FUEL

All the lakes and rivers are fringed with fair sized timber, bluffs on mid-prairies are numerous, and even small forests are found at irregular intervals; but as there is unlimited coal in the country in mines nowhere more than 200 miles distant from the most remote farmer, and at the doors of many the wood is of a less moment.



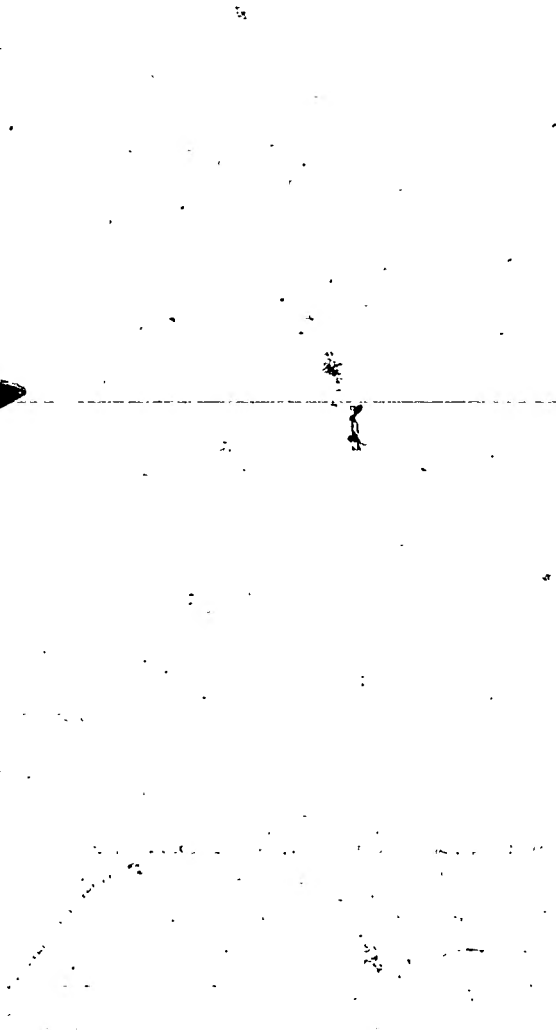
This coal is of excellent quality, and costs but \$2.50 per ton at the pit's mouth, and but \$4 to \$5 to the most distant farmer. Mining increased from 75,000 tons in 1887 to 325,000 in 1900, showing one way the growth of the country.

MARKETS

As there are about 1,000 railway stations in the prairie country with grain elevators and buyers at every one of them, and over 500 towns and villages of different sizes from the country store and post office up to the City of Winnipeg, with its 100,000 people, and buyers and consumers in them all, with an ever increasing influx of settlers in need of all farm products for a year till they produce themselves, the country has everywhere excellent markets for all the farmer has to offer.

EDUCATIONAL

In the two new provinces the number of schools has increased from 75 in 1886 with a government grant of \$8,908, to 845 in 1904 with a government help of \$273,500. The schools are all free and non-sectarian, and are everywhere established where there are ten or more children to attend them, with good buildings and highly certificated teachers, under government management. There are no state-aided churches, and all religious denominations are found in the country.



GOVERNMENT AND TAXATION

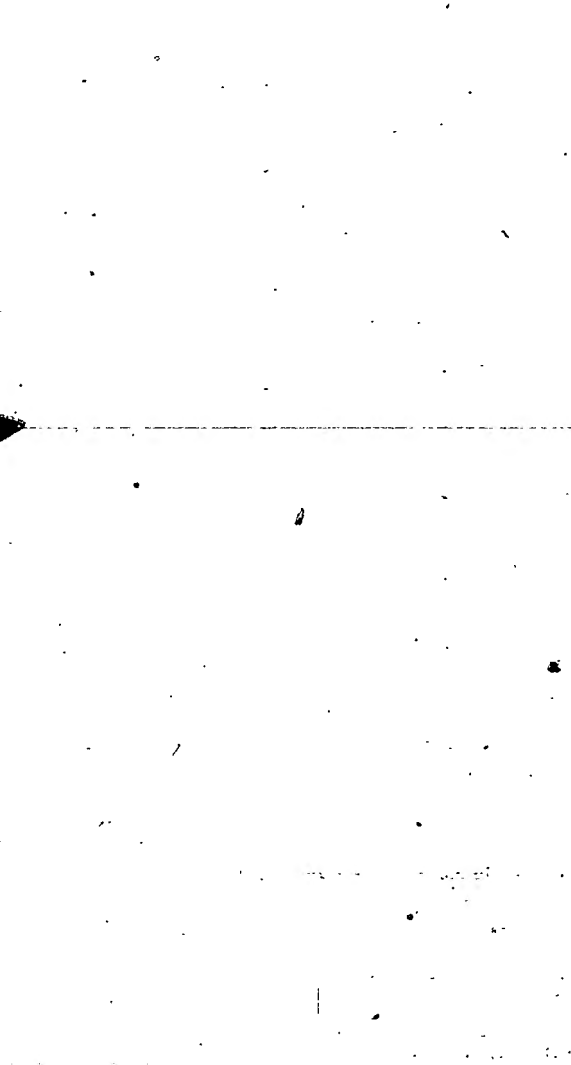
The government is the freest and most democratic under the sun. The people under a manhood suffrage make up the parliaments and legislative bodies, who in turn appoint all officials.

There is no taxation in any part of the country, but as the people create it themselves, for the support of schools, municipal organizations, the construction of roads, etc., and even these rarely exceed \$8 a year on a quarter section of land (160 acres). As each of the new provinces will from this out receive a grant of \$1,100,000 a year from the Federal Government and more as the population increases, taxation in the future will exist in little more than the name.

SUMMARY

To sum up, the soil, climatic conditions, laws, educational and postal facilities, markets, taxation, full supply, etc., are all that can be desired and transport facilities are increasing as rapidly as settlement advances. Every foundation or essential as settlement increases, for the convenience and comfort of millions of a population is there.

Land in its native state similar to that which has produced the results enumerated above is there free for the asking. All that is required is the due exercise of ordinary business methods on the part of the settlers to establish for themselves homes and possibilities unequalled in any other country on the globe.



There is no better country in which money can be employed by settlers to better advantage, and none in which the man without means who is industrious and economical has better prospects. This leaves but little more to be said.

It is not necessary for intending immigrants to depend on newspaper articles or government literature alone for an introduction, the evidence of the thousands of settlers who are coming in yearly and establishing themselves in peace and plenty is all the testimony required by the man who desires to establish himself in a competency in a few years, and commencing with a most moderate capital.

INFORMATION AND ADVICE.

MAY BE OBTAINED FROM:

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Ottawa, Canada.

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Winnipeg, Canada.
